

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 EUR-12 CIAE-00
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PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 TRSE-00 NEA-10 HA-05
OES-07 DOE-11 SOE-02 OMB-01 ACDA-12 FRB-01 AF-10
ARA-14 OIC-02 DOEE-00 /186 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1434
INFO USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1884
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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (SECTION INFO)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OCON, ESCAP

SUBJ: ESCAP THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION

1. SUMMARY. ESCAP 34TH COMMISSION SESSION BEGAN TUESDAY, MARCH 7 WITH OPENING STATEMENT GIVEN BY RTG PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK. MEMBER DELEGATIONS, OBSERVERS, AND VARIOUS UN AGENCIES FOLLOWED WITH THEIR STATEMENTS. SESSION HAS THUS FAR BEEN UNEVENTFUL, WITH THE USUAL LDC COMPLAINTS ABOUT PROTECTIONISM, DEBT, FAILURE TO ESTABLISH COMMON FUND AND CHINESE-SOVIET BATTLE OF WORDS. GENERAL TONE OF STATEMENTS HAS BEEN LOW-KEY WITH A NUMBER OF SPEAKERS STRESSING NEED FOR REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION. INDIA CALLED FOR CONCILIATION RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION IN NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. MANY STATEMENTS APPLAUDED THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MEKONG COMMITTEE. PHILIPPINES OFFERED TO HOST 35TH SESSION.
END SUMMARY.

2. PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK MADE A BRIEF OPENING STATEMENT NOTING
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THAT ESCAP HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN PROVIDING A NECESSARY FORUM WHEREBY ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES CAN GET TOGETHER AND WORK TOWARD ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. HE THEN CALLED FOR A MAJOR OVERHAUL OF THE EXISTING ECONOMIC ORDER, AND SAID A NIEO RE-PRESENTS THE HOPE FOR THE FUTURE OF DEVELOPING NATIONS.

3. FOLLOWING OPENING STATEMENT BY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MARAMIS,

IRAN WAS CHOSEN AS CHAIRMAN, AND AUSTRALIA, BANGLADESH, CHINA, JAPAN, INDIA, NEPAL, SRI LANKA, THAILAND AND VIETNAMESE WERE CHOSEN AS VICE CHAIRMEN.

4. FOLLOWING FURTHER FORMALITIES, COUNTRY STATEMENTS BEGAN. MOST LDC'S CRITICIZED DCS FOR FAILURE OF COMMON FUND NEGOTIATIONS AND EXPRESSED HOPE FOR EARLY RESUMPTION, CONDEMNED PROTECTIONISM AND URGED THAT MORE CLEARLY DEFINED GOALS BE ESTABLISHED IN THE NEW IDS FOR THE THIRD UN DEVELOPMENT DECADE. CRITICISMS WERE GENERALLY LOW KEY STATEMENTS OF REGRET AND DISAPPOINTMENT IN FAILURE OF SECOND DEVELOPMENT DECADE TO ACHIEVE GOALS SET FOR LDCS. GROWTH WITH SOCIAL JUSTICE WAS A MAJOR THEME IN MANY STATEMENTS. THERE WAS MUCH PRAISE FOR THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MEKONG COMMITTEE BY THAILAND, LAOS AND VIETNAM. THE PHILIPPINES OFFERED TO HOST THE 35TH COMMISSION SESSION NEXT YEAR.

5. IRAN CRITICIZED SECRETARIAT PAPER BLAMING OIL PRICE RISES FOR ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, STATING THAT OIL PRICES INCREASED ONLY IN RESPONSE TO PRICE INCREASES OF OTHER PRODUCTS, AND NOTED THAT AT OPEC MEETING IN CARACAS IRAN HAD HELPED TO FREEZE OIL PRICES EVEN THOUGH THE REAL VALUE OF OIL REVENUE WAS DECREASING.

6. NETHERLANDS EXPRESSED CONCERN RE LACK OF IMPLEMENTATION OF NIEO RESOLUTIONS, BUT STATED THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SHOULD REALIZE THEIR DIVERSITY WHEN NEGOTIATING ON THE BASIS OF POLITICAL COHESION. DEL STATED NETHERLANDS POSITION AS NEGOTIATING ON BASIS UNCLASSIFIED

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OF SOLIDARITY WITH POOR COUNTRIES, WHILE ATTACHING GREAT IMPORTANCE TO EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. AID LEVEL SET AT 1 1/2 PER CENT GNP MINIMUM, GEARED TO THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST AND WHO USE IT TO DEVELOP POOREST SECTORS. ANNOUNCED CONTRIBUTIONS TALLING ALMOST \$7 MILLION U.S. FOR ESCAP AND MEKONG.

7. VIETNAM STATED THAT THE "FORCES OF IMPERIALISM DO NOT GIVE UP EASILY THEIR EGOISTIC INTERESTS AND OPPOSE OBSTINATELY EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A NIEO". EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO THOSE WHO HAD GIVEN ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM FOR RECONSTRUCTION, AND EXPRESSED "REGRET THAT THOSE WHO WERE THE ORIGINAL CAUSE FOR THE WAR AND ITS CONSEQUENCES CONTINUE TO REMAIN DEAF TO THE LEGITIMATE NEEDS OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE." STATED THE US "CANNOT AVOID ITS LEGAL OR MORAL OBLIGATION TO HELP HEAL THE WOUNDS OF WAR AND THE RECONSTRUCTION OF VIETNAM."

8. LAOS MADE A PLEA FOR ADDITIONAL FOOD AID AND STATED THAT, AS PRESIDENT OF MEKONG COMMITTEE, HOPED FOR COOPERATIVE EFFORT WITH RESPECT FOR NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY.

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9. PRC LASHED OUT AT "SUPERPOWERS" MONOPOLY, CONTROL AND IMPERIALISM. NOTED "ONE OF THE SUPERPOWERS" PROCLAIMED BASIC HUMAN NEEDS WAS GUIDELINE FOR GIVING AID, HAD AN AXE TO GRIND, WAS USING MINOR CONCESSIONS IN AID TO AVOID RADICAL CHANGE IN ECONOMIC ORDER, SPLIT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND SABOTAGE EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A NIEO. THE OTHER SUPERPOWER HAD USED "ALL SORTS OF TRICKS TO BRING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NIEO WITHIN THE ORBIT OF ITS BID FOR WORLD HEGEMONY."

9. USSR CRITICIZED CAPITALIST STATES FOR CAUSING CURRENT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND CALLED CHINESE ATTACK A "THINLY VEILED SMOKE SCREEN" TO ATTRIBUTE THEIR OBJECTIVES TO OTHERS.

10. AUSTRALIA (FOREIGN MINISTER PEACOCK) AFTER EMPHASIZING THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW ORDER IS AN EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS, CONTENDED THAT PROGRESS ON SPECIFIC NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE ACHIEVED IF THERE IS POLITICAL WILL. PEACOCK NOTED THAT A HIGH-LEVEL TASK FORCE HAD BEEN RECENTLY SET UP IN AUSTRALIA IN ORDER TO GENERATE POLITICAL WILL AT A NATIONAL LEVEL. CITING ITS NEW POSITION ON THE COMMON FUND AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE GOA'S POLITICAL WILL, AUSTRALIA CALLED ON OTHERS TO EXHIBIT A SIMILAR COMMITMENT.

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11. MOHAN DHARIA, INDIA'S MINISTER FOR COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES

AND COOPERATION, WHILE CRITICIZING INCREASE OF PROTECTIONISM IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ALSO NOTED THAT RHETORIC WAS OF LITTLE USE AND THAT A COOPERATIVE SPIRIT IN SOLVING GLOBAL PROBLEMS WAS FAR MORE IMPORTANT. CONCILIATION WAS TO BE PREFERRED OVER CONFRONTATION. DHARIA NOTED THAT GOI HAD DECIDED THAT UNDER NEW SIXTH DEVELOPMENT PLAN NO MORE COMPOSITE MILLS (SPINNING AND WEAVING) WERE TO BE ESTABLISHED BUT ONLY HANDLOOMS. RESULT WOULD BE AN ESTIMATED INCREASE OF 3.5 MILLION IN EMPLOYMENT.

12. DELEGATION WILL SUBMIT A WRAP-UP REPORT COVERING FURTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES FOLLOWING ADJOURNMENT OF THE SESSION ON 17 MARCH.

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